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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Between October 1946 and 16 June 1952, the antiaircraft firing range at Krasnoarmeysk had two lanes, a southern and a northern. The southern lane, which was about 10 km long, was used for rocket firing, while the northern lane, about 30 km long, was used for firing AA guns. Source, who visited the northern lane 10 to 12 times, saw these AA guns in firing practice from a distance of about 40 meters; however, he was unable to give a detailed description of the guns. From observations made by source at the Kammersdorf range, he believed they were about 20, 40, and 60 mm caliber. The guns, which were rotated to the range for about one week, were usually covered with canvas. The 20 and 40 mm AA guns were observed throughout the entire period of observation, while the 60 mm guns were observed after 1949. The 20 and 40 mm guns had no unusual features. They were fitted with a rotating gunner's seat and had a mount with 360-degree traverse but had no shield.

2. [redacted] a 60 mm AA gun [redacted]

[redacted] It was fitted with a split-trail gun carriage and was apparently capable of 360-degree firing. [redacted] the gun was ready for delivery to military units. It appeared to him that only the gun's ammunition and fuzes were being tested. [redacted]

[redacted] The magazine mechanism of the gun was in order, and the muzzle velocity was very high. Its speed was estimated at 1,100 to 1,200 meters per second. Its very loud report indicated a high powder charge and high terminal gas pressure. Most of the

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projectiles were fired at an elevation of about 60 degrees and tracer ammunition of a high light intensity was used. No shells which failed to destroy themselves were observed. [redacted] salvos of three shells were always fired at a rate of 90 to 120 shells per minute. Firing practice was particularly heavy on cold winter nights. After 1949, firing practice with the 60 mm AA guns was observed daily. In 1951 and 1952, night firing practice was usually performed with the 60 mm AA gun. When source was asked again about the rate of fire of this gun, he still maintained that 90 to 120 shells were fired per minute, but admitted that the loud reports made by the 60 mm guns may have deceived him. It was not known whether any of the AA guns were copies of foreign types or whether they had been developed in the USSR. [redacted]

3. Multiple-barrel antiaircraft weapons were never seen. The use of such weapons was never indicated by the observation of bundles of projectiles.
4. Between 1949 and 1951, flares were often dropped. These were parachute flares, which contained magnesium and had a burning time of 60 to 90 seconds. The flares did not work very well; about every tenth one was a failure because its magnesium charge burst and the parachute was destroyed. The light intensity of the flares was very great, even on sunny days. They were noted [redacted] at a distance of about 1,500 meters [redacted] but shadow effects were not consciously noticed. No photo flash bombs were seen.
5. Only a small number of officers was permanently stationed at the Krasno-armeyesk firing range. This group consisted of the commandant, a colonel who wore an air force uniform; a major who was an administrative officer; an MVD captain; and a colonel who probably acted as liaison officer to an agency in Moscow. Other officers in the group were assigned to the ammunition depot, or charged with sound and flash ranging missions, or with general supervision activities. About 80 percent of the officers, who arrived daily by bus or sedan at the firing range, wore air force uniforms. Most of them were field grade officers, although captains were also seen. These officers seldom stayed at Putilovo overnight. Of the officers stationed at the range, source remembered only a Colonel (fnu) Ivanov by name.

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